

Preliminary Amendment

Amendments to the Claims

This listing of claims replaces all prior versions and listings of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

1. (Withdrawn) A method of diagnosis, the method comprising:
 - (a) providing a test sample of breast tissue;
 - (b) determining the level of expression in the test sample of a gene selected from those listed in Table 1; and
 - (c) if the gene is expressed in the test sample at a lower level than in a control normal breast tissue sample, diagnosing the test sample as containing cancer cells.
2. (Withdrawn) A method of determining the grade of a ductal carcinoma in situ (DCIS), the method comprising:
 - (a) providing a test sample of DCIS tissue;
 - (b) deriving a test expression profile for the test sample by determining the level of expression in the test sample of ten or more genes selected from those listed in Tables 2-16;
 - (c) comparing the test expression profile to control expression profiles of the ten or more genes in control samples of high grade, intermediate grade, and low grade DCIS;
 - (d) selecting the control expression profile that most closely resembles the test expression profile; and
 - (e) assigning to the test sample a grade that matches the grade of the control expression profile selected in step (d).
3. – 7. (Cancelled)
8. (Currently amended) A method of determining the likelihood of a breast cancer being DCIS (ductal carcinoma in situ) or invasive breast cancer, the method comprising:
 - (a) providing a test sample of breast tissue comprising a test cell;

(b) determining the level of expression in the test sample of a gene selected from the group consisting of a gene encoding CD74, a gene encoding MGC2328, a gene encoding S100A7, a gene encoding KRT19, a gene encoding trefoil factor 3 (TFF3), a gene encoding osteonectin, and a gene identified by a SAGE tag consisting of the nucleotide sequence CTGGGCGCCCC (SEQ ID NO:1109) encoding cathepsin K (CTSK);

(c) determining whether the level of expression of the selected gene in the test sample more closely resembles the level of expression of the selected gene in control cells of (i) DCIS or (ii) invasive breast cancer; and

(d) classifying the test sample as: (i) likely to be DCIS if the level of expression of the gene in the test sample more closely resembles the level of expression of the gene in DCIS cells; or (ii) likely to be invasive breast cancer if the level of expression of the gene in the test sample more closely resembles the level of expression of the gene in invasive breast cancer cells.

9. (Withdrawn) A method of predicting the prognosis of a breast cancer patient, the method comprising:

(a) providing a sample of primary invasive breast cancer tissue from a test patient; and

(b) determining the level of expression in the sample of a gene encoding S100A7 or a gene encoding fatty acid synthase (FASN), wherein a level of expression higher than in a control sample of primary invasive breast carcinoma from a patient with a good prognosis is an indication that the prognosis of the test patient is poor.

10. (Withdrawn) A method of diagnosis comprising:

(a) providing a test sample of breast tissue comprising a test stromal cell; and

(b) determining the level of expression in the stromal cell of a gene selected from those listed in Tables 7, 8, 10, 15, and 16, wherein the gene is one that is expressed in a cell of the same type as the test stromal cell at a substantially higher level when present in breast cancer tissue than when present in normal breast tissue; and

(c) classifying the test sample as: (i) normal breast tissue if the level of expression of the gene in the test stromal cell is not substantially higher than a control level of expression for a cell

of the same type as the test stromal cell in normal breast tissue; (ii) breast cancer tissue if the level of expression of the gene in the test stromal cell is substantially higher than a control level of expression for a cell of the same type as the test stromal cell in normal breast tissue.

11. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 10, wherein the stromal cells in the test sample and the standard samples are leukocytes and the genes are selected from those listed in Tables 7 and 15.

12. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 11, wherein the gene encodes interleukin-1 β (IL β) or macrophage inhibitory protein 1 α (MIP1 α).

13. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 10, wherein the stromal cells in the test sample and the standard samples are myoepithelial cells or myofibroblasts and the genes are selected from those listed in Tables 8, 15, and 16.

14. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 13, wherein the gene encodes a polypeptide selected from the group consisting of cathepsins F, K, and L, MMP2, PRSS11, thrombospondin 2, SERPING1, cystatin C (CST3), TIMP3, platelet-derived growth factor receptor β -like (PDGFRBL), a collagen, collagen triple helix repeat containing 1 (CTHRC1), CXCL12, and CXCL14.

15. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 10, wherein the stromal cells in the test sample and the standard samples are endothelial cells and the genes are selected from those listed in Tables 10 and 15.

16. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 10, wherein the stromal cells in the test sample and the standard samples are fibroblasts and the genes are selected from those listed in Table 15.

17. (Withdrawn) A method of diagnosis comprising:

(a) providing a test sample of breast tissue comprising a test stromal cell; and

(b) determining the level of expression in the stromal cell of a gene selected from those listed in Tables 7, 8, 10, and 15 wherein the gene is one that is expressed in a cell of the same type as the test stromal cell at a substantially higher level when present in normal breast tissue than when present in breast cancer tissue; and

(c) classifying the test sample as: (i) normal breast tissue if the level of expression of the gene in the test stromal cell is not substantially lower than a control level of expression for a cell of the same type as the test stromal cell in normal breast tissue; (ii) breast cancer tissue if the level of expression of the gene in the test stromal cell is substantially lower than a control level of expression for a cell of the same type as the test stromal cell in normal breast tissue.

18. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 17, wherein the stromal cells in the test sample and the standard samples are leukocytes and the genes are selected from those listed in Tables 7 and 15.

19. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 17, wherein the stromal cells in the test sample and the standard samples are myoepithelial cells or myofibroblasts and the genes are selected from those listed in Tables 8 and 15.

20. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 17, wherein the stromal cells in the test sample and the standard samples are endothelial cells and the genes are selected from those listed in Tables 10 and 15.

21. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 17, wherein the stromal cells in the test sample and the standard samples are fibroblasts and the genes are selected from those listed in Table 15.

22. (Withdrawn) A method of diagnosis comprising:

(a) providing a test sample of breast tissue comprising a test epithelial cell of the luminal epithelial type;

(b) determining the level of expression in the test epithelial cell of a gene selected from those listed in Tables 9 and 15, wherein the gene is one that is expressed in cancerous epithelial

cells of the luminal epithelial cell type at a substantially higher level than those in normal breast tissue; and

(c) classifying the test sample as: (i) normal breast tissue if the level of expression of the gene in the test epithelial cell is not substantially higher than a control level of expression for an epithelial cell of luminal epithelial cell type in normal breast tissue; (ii) breast cancer tissue if the level of expression of the gene in the test epithelial cell is substantially higher than a control level of expression for an epithelial cell of the luminal epithelial type in normal breast tissue.

23. (Withdrawn) A method of diagnosis comprising:

(a) providing a test sample of breast tissue comprising a test epithelial cell of the luminal epithelial type; and

(b) determining the level of expression in the test epithelial cell of a gene selected from those listed in Tables 9 and 15, wherein the gene is one that is expressed in epithelial cells of the luminal epithelial cell type at a substantially lower level when present in breast cancer tissue than when present in normal breast tissue; and

(c) classifying the test sample as: (i) normal breast tissue if the level of expression of the gene in the test epithelial cell is not substantially lower than a control level of expression for an epithelial cell of luminal epithelial cell type in normal breast tissue; (ii) breast cancer tissue if the level of expression of the gene in the test epithelial cell is substantially lower than a control level of expression for an epithelial cell of the luminal epithelial type in normal breast tissue.

24. - 25. (Cancelled)

26. (Withdrawn) A method of inhibiting proliferation or survival of a breast cancer cell, the method comprising contacting a breast cancer cell with a polypeptide that is encoded by a gene selected from those listed in Tables 1, 7-10, and 15, wherein the gene is expressed in the cancer cell, or a stromal cell in a tumor comprising the cancer cell, at a level substantially lower than in a normal cell of the same type.

27.- 31. (Cancelled)

32. (Withdrawn) A method of inhibiting pathogenesis of a breast cancer cell or stromal cell in a tumor of a mammal, the method comprising

(a) identifying a mammal with a breast cancer tumor; and

(b) administering to the mammal an agent that inhibits binding of a polypeptide encoded by a gene selected from those listed in Tables 2-10, 15, and 16 to its receptor or ligand,

wherein the gene is expressed in a breast cancer cell in the tumor, or in a stromal cell in the tumor, at a level substantially higher than in a corresponding cell in a non-cancerous breast, and

wherein the polypeptide is a secreted polypeptide or a cell-surface polypeptide.

33. – 39 (Cancelled)

40. (Withdrawn) A method of inhibiting expression of a gene in a cell, the method comprising introducing into a target cell selected from the group consisting of (a) a breast cancer cell and (b) stromal cell in a tumor comprising a breast cancer cell, an agent that inhibits expression of a gene selected from those listed in Tables 2-10, 15 and 16, wherein the gene is expressed in the target cell at a level substantially higher than in a corresponding cell in normal breast tissue.

41. – 49. (Cancelled)

50. (Withdrawn) A single stranded nucleic acid probe comprising:

(a) the nucleotide sequence of a tag selected from those listed in Tables 1-5, 7-10, 15 and 16; or

(b) the complement of the nucleotide sequence.

51. (Withdrawn) An array comprising a substrate having at least 10 addresses, wherein each address has disposed thereon a capture probe comprising a nucleic acid sequence consisting of a tag nucleotide sequence selected from those listed in Tables 1-5, 7-10, 15, and 16.

52. – 57. (Cancelled)

58. (Withdrawn) A kit comprising at least 10 probes, each probe comprising a nucleic acid sequence comprising a tag nucleotide sequence selected from those listed in Tables 1-10, 15 and 16.

59. – 63. (Cancelled)

64. (Withdrawn) A kit comprising at least 10 antibodies each of which is specific for a different protein encoded by a gene identified by a tag selected from the group consisting of the tags listed in Tables 1-5, 7-10, 15 and 16.

65. – 70. (Cancelled)

71. (Withdrawn) A method of identifying the grade of a DCIS, the method comprising:

- (a) providing a test sample of DCIS tissue;
- (b) using the array of claim 51 to determine a test expression profile of the sample;
- (c) providing a plurality of reference profiles, each derived from a DCIS of a defined grade, wherein the test expression profile and each reference profile has a plurality of values, each value representing the expression level of a gene corresponding to a tag selected from those listed in Tables 1-5, 7-10, 15, and 16; and
- (d) selecting the reference profile most similar to the test expression profile, to thereby identify the grade of the test DCIS.

72. (Withdrawn) A method of determining whether a breast cancer is a DCIS or an invasive breast cancer, the method comprising:

- (a) providing a test sample of breast cancer tissue;
- (b) determining the level of expression of CXCL14 in myofibroblasts in the test sample;

(c) determining whether the level of expression of CXCL14 in the myofibroblasts in the test sample more closely resembles the level of expression of CXCL14 in control myofibroblasts of (i) DCIS or (ii) invasive breast cancer; and

(d) classifying the test sample as: (i) DCIS if the level of expression of CXCL14 in myofibroblasts in the test sample more closely resembles the level of expression of CXCL14 in control myofibroblasts of DCIS; (ii) invasive breast cancer if the level of expression of CXCL14 in myofibroblasts in the test sample more closely resembles the level of expression of CXCL14 in control myofibroblasts of invasive breast cancer.

73. -77. (Cancelled)

78. (New) The method of claim 8, wherein the test cell and the control cells are stromal cells.

79. (New) The method of claim 78, wherein the stromal cells are myofibroblasts.

80. (New) The method of claim 8, wherein the gene is expressed at a higher level in invasive cancer cells than in DCIS cells.